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(54) **Network management event correlation in environments containing inoperative network elements**

(57) A network monitor (510) for distinguishing between broken and inaccessible network elements (124, 128-136). The network monitor includes one or more computer readable storage mediums, and computer readable program code stored in the one or more computer readable storage mediums. The computer readable program code includes code for discovering the topology of a plurality of network elements, code for periodically polling a plurality of network interfaces associated with the plurality of network elements, code for computing or validating a criticalRoute attribute for each of the plurality of network interfaces, and code for analyzing a status of network interfaces identified by the criticalRoute attribute of an interface in question (11Q) which is not responding to a poll or ping. The computer readable program code may also include code for establishing a slowPingList and placing in-memory representations of broken or failed network interfaces thereon, thereby reducing the amount of information which is presented to a network administrator from inaccessible elements not responding to a network interface poll. A means for correlating and/or suppressing events (502) in response to the determination of whether a network interface is failed or broken is also provided. Information which is not critical to a network administrator may be suppressed, and then viewed in a "drill down"

(522, 722, 822) of a particular network interface.

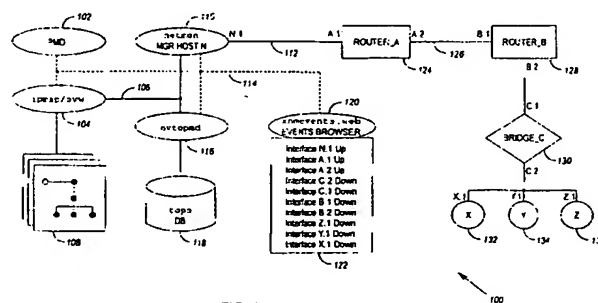


FIG. 1

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 10 8915

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US 5 436 909 A (DEV ROGER H ET AL) 25 July 1995 (1995-07-25) * abstract * * figures 3,5,6 * * column 2, line 9-35 * * column 10, line 39.- column 12, line 41 * * claims 1-5 *	1-10	H04L12/24 H04L12/26
A	US 4 825 206 A (WEINGARTEN ROBERT A ET AL) 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) * abstract * * figures 9,10 * * column 2, line 54 - column 2, line 65 * * column 3, line 34-45 * * column 6, line 47 - column 7, line 8 * * claim 1 *	1-4,6-8,10	
A	HAJELA S.: "HP OEMF: ALARM MANAGEMENT IN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS" HEWLETT-PACKARD JOURNAL, vol. 47, no. 5, 1 October 1996 (1996-10-01), pages 22-30, XP000631663 * the whole document *	1-4,6-8,10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 July 1999	Examiner Cichra, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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